Subject: Netscape Update (12/8/00) - long
Date: Fri, 08 Dec 2000 09:23:36 -0500
From: Jeremy Warren <Jeremy.Warren@noaa.gov>
Organization: NOAA/OAR
To: _OAR Netscape Admins <netscape@oar.noaa.gov>
Newsgroups: oar.netscape

This week the MCB meet on thursday because the NOAA IT Security Seminar
bumped us from our regular day. We'll be back to meeting on tuesday
next week. As always this information is available via the
(news://neptune.nos.noaa.gov/oar.netscape) newsgroup.

The Issues:

1) Deadlines
    Mar. 15th - Mailhub is powered down.
    Feb. 2nd - Mailhub is taken out of the MX record so it is no longer
used for any mail functions.
    Jan. 7th - Mailhub directory will only sync with LDAP directory, no
more X.500 uploads permitted.
                    (All NOAA users must be in an LDAP directory)
    Dec. 31st - All OAR users must be in the LDAP directory.
    Dec. 11th - Mail Relay added to MX record.

    Please try to get all of your people into the LDAP directory by
December 31st. All than needs to be done to move a user into the
directory is to change their mailhost to your local messaging server
(example: box.al.noaa.gov), change the primary mail admin to your
administrator (example: _OAR AL Mail Admin), and put in a forwarding
address to their old mail account (example:
user@oldserver.al.noaa.gov). If you need any help with this let me
know.

    If you do not have your users in the LDAP directory by Dec. 31st I
will add them into the Netscape directory for you using the OAR
headquarters messaging server (ms-oartest.oar.noaa.gov) so that OAR can
make the January 7th deadline. Any changes to user accounts, creation
of new users, and deletion of old users will need to be done through the
NEMS directory after January 7th. If I add you to the server here then
you'll need to talk to me to have changes made to the directory.
Hopefully, everyone will be able to get their users in the directory by
the 31st.

2) Mail Relay - The new mail relay was tested in production on monday
morning from 7am until 8am EST. It routed about 95% of the total
messages sent (the old mail hub took care of the rest). There were a
few glitches and special cases that were addressed this week so that
everything will go smoothly when it is put into production again next
monday morning.

3) Anti-Virus Scanning - One area that is still being tested is the
Anti-virus scanning. It was tested earlier this week and it was only
able to handle about half the messages running through the mail hub.
The MOC is changing the configuration to increase performance (it may
have been misconfigured from the start) and will continue testing that.

4) Anonymous Access to Directory - The MCB is reviewing the policy on
the anonymous access to the directory. Right now, the only attributes
that are viewable for users are: Name, E-mail Address, Street Address,
City, State, Zip, Telephone, and Line Office. As far as scripts go, it
was recommended that you create a functional account for accessing the
directory (rather than using your own username and password in the

script). The biggest change is that the Browser (LDAP URLs) always
authenticate as anonymous, so in the address book when you double click
on a name you'll only see the allowed fields for that user in the
browser window that comes up (this is true even if you authenticate to
the directory because it bring sit up in a browser window). It is
possible to authenticate to the directory in netscape (we had some
problems doing this before), all you need to do is in the address book
directory click on properties and check the box that says "Login with
name and password" when the username/password prompt comes up you need
to type in your _e-mail_ address not your username and then your
password (read the box carefully). I don't know why this is (netscape
programing genius).

5) SSL - The MOC now has the ability to issue SSL certificates for
messaging servers so that the transfer of mail is done through Secure
Socket Layers (https). I'm going to work with the MOC to set it up on
the server here and in doings so write out some documentation on the
process so that we can post an official process and start other having
other sites do this.

6) Calendar - The MCB released an official statement to the CIO Council
on the status of netscape calendar implementation (below).

An enterprise calendar solution is required in order to facilitate
cross-organizational scheduling. The enterprise solution will be
implemented and maintained as a NOAA level resource. NOAA's intent is
to deploy the next generation Netscape product, iCalendar, when it
becomes available. If a viable iCalendar product is not released by
March 1, 2001, a process to select another product will commence.

Essentially, the MCB is not happy with the iPlanet Calendar 5.0p1 and is
trying to hold off until 5.1 is release. If 5.1 isn't out by March 1st
or it's out and it doesn't meet our needs then we will begin a
requirements study to determine what sort of calendar package we need to
look to procure and implement.

That's it for this week. Next week I'll be asking for the status of the
directory migration so we can get everyone over by the Dec. 31st cut
off. If you have any questions or comments either e-mail me or post to
the newsgroup.

thanks,

Jeremy

--
  Jeremy Warren
  Enterprise Network Manager
  NOAA/OAR Computer Services
  Jeremy.Warren@noaa.gov